Reviving MBBS curriculum

390. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to devise a new MBBS curriculum that is more rural based;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to make rural training for one or two years after the house-surgeon training compulsory for medical graduates;

(d) if so, the details in regard thereto; and

(e) by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Government has constituted a Task Force on Medical Education for the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under the Chairmanship of Ex-Union Health Secretary. This Task Force is required to suggest amongst others modification in MBBS curriculum and measures as to how rural services can be made attractive for MBBS doctors alongwith other possibilities of proving Health care in rural and under served areas, the Task Force is expected to submit its report shortly.

Decline in AIDS deaths due to cheaper drugs

391. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deaths and percentage of deaths attributable to AIDS have considerably declined since 1997, with the availability of cheaper drugs in India;

(b) if so, the number and percentage of such deaths during these years; year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken further for making these drugs available to the poor;